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This copy belongs to NZPC
MAGAZINE FOR SEX INDUSTRY
WORKERS

SIREN



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OUT NOW

KIA ORA

Well, it's happened, the New Zealand Prostitutes Collective is finally in existence and we'd like to welcome readers to our first bi-monthly edition of our magazine.

It's a good feeling to be sitting in our inner-city building here in Wellington, around our type-writers and discussing the kind of information and programmes we will be sharing with all of you involved in the sex-industry.

How come a Collective? Originally a group of working girls met together over a few wines and idly talked about the likelihood of a Collective getting off the ground. We never imagined how easily things would fall into place. Our interest in a Collective fortunately coincided with an approach by the Health Department to me, expressing a concern about aids and its implications for sex workers. The Health Department's perception of sex workers was mainly based on overseas reports which linked the spread of aids in part to prostitution. I argued that while this may be the case in some prostitution scenes around the world, the standards maintained in New Zealand were generally very high. We do not consider ourselves to be an 'at risk' group.

For all of us making a living in this business it is vital that we work on this propaganda. We cannot afford to let aids infiltrate our scene.

The Health Department has funded the Collective with the expectation that it will work towards keeping the sex industry aids free. We need your support and co-operation if we are to do this successfully. After all, it makes good business sense.

In April I was appointed by the Minister of Health, David Caygill, to the National Council on Aids. The Council is a think tank comprising of twenty-two people from diverse backgrounds. It's function is to make recommendations to the Minister... An appointment of a prostitute at this level means at last we have a voice and a certain amount of credibility.

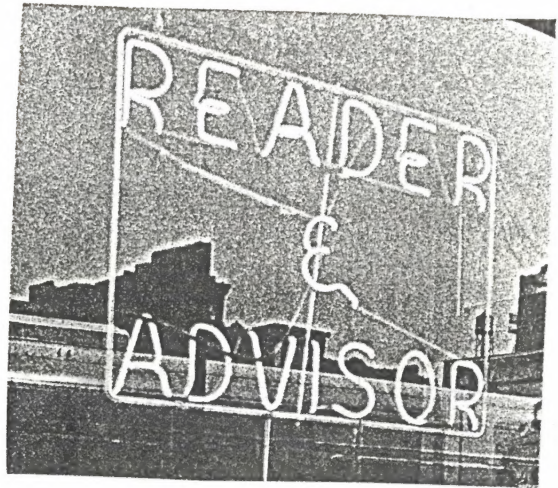
I look forward to working with the Collective and building a strong network for everyone involved in the sex industry.

Catherine

EDITORIAL



To the



We're here at last set up and ready to go. Our role is to find out your needs and to establish an educational exchange. We've finally got an office together, so we're easy to contact now.

We'll be sending you lots more newsletters regularly in the future with articles covering Aids and STD information, the international and local scene and general points of interest to all of us in the sex industry. As we build the network we'll extend our services to include legal and other advice. We are here to help you, no matter what your line of sex work, background or query. Just contact us and we'll be happy to help, even if it's just to put you in contact with other organisations or people. WE UNDERSTAND.

Our philosophy is to pull the sex industry into a cohesive network, with better communication at all levels. We see this project as a beginning of a movement throughout New Zealand which will enhance our industry. It is important we have a medium for ourselves. The Collective office is here in Wellington. We have an office space and anyone in the industry can drop in for a cup of tea or coffee and have a chat, get some information material or just sit and read. We're planning some excursions to your city soon and if you're interested in setting up a kind of base or be a contact person for your area, give us a call.

We've just been over the the 'First National Sex-Industry and Aids Conference' in Melbourne and found out just what's happening in the scene over there. It was extremely educational. We should consider ourselves luckier here as the prostitution laws in Australia (and each State is different) are quite a hassle for them. The Australian girls have to put up with police harassment and in some legal brothels the girls work for practically nothing after paying the management a cut and tax. An example was given where in a legal brothel in Melbourne the girls charged \$100, gave the management \$50, paid \$25 tax and were left with a pittance \$25 per client. This is not all that uncommon where prostitution has been legalised.

Sasha & Kathy

GOOD BUSINESS = SAFE SEX

NOT NEGOTIABLE



I'm sure we're talking for everyone when we say we'd like to see 'safe sex' (being condom use primarily) practised by all sex-workers across the country, for your health and welfare and for the sake of our business. As you can understand if Aids becomes a problem in the sex-industry the media will get hold of it and have a field-day and there goes our business. This has already happened with the damaging article in the Sunday News last month of the masseuse in an Auckland parlour with Aids. We don't want bad publicity for our scene as this can result in less clients and lower earnings for all of us. So be smart and always use condoms. A few extra dollars is not worth the risk. If everyone in the scene was to practice safe sex and this everywhere was understood to be 'not negotiable' then we wouldn't get so many (if any) clients wanting unsafe sex and offering more for such dangerous practices. They'd soon get the message and stop arguing.



When you find you have a client who refuses to wear a condom for the usual variety of reasons, it's up to us to give the stupid guy a lecture on the dangers of non-condom use. If he refuses to wear a condom just remember he's probably more likely to have something wrong with him. Point out that sex workers who don't use condoms with him probably don't use condoms with many other clients and they are more likely to contract Aids not to mention all the other STD's.

So get the client aware even if necessary to the point where he's running off to a clinic to get a test after learning of the stupid and dangerous ways.



Massage parlour women sacked

Malaysian women working illegally in Auckland massage parlours have been sacked following an investigation by immigration officials. The investigation followed revelations in the Auckland Star that Asian women were being employed as masseuses after slipping into the country as tourists. They enter New Zealand on three-month visitors' permits and work in the parlours for several weeks, earning several thousand dollars, before returning home, the Star said. One operator, who runs five massage parlours and bath-houses in the city, had admitted employing five Malaysians. He has been ordered to lay them all off after it was discovered that none had work permits. "My compliance officers spoke to the employer concerned and he has terminated their employment," said immigration northern regional manager Neil Caddie.

Unaware

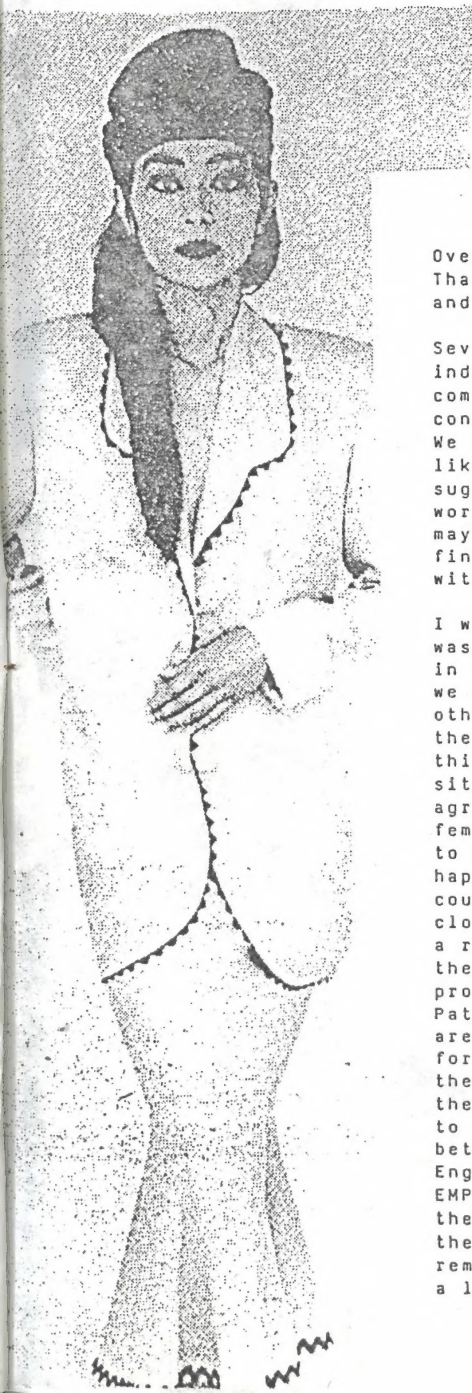
The parlour operator had been unaware of the regulations. "He is trying to put things in order legally," said Mr Caddie. The employer has now applied for work permits on behalf of the Asians. All usual criteria would have to be satisfied, including a proven shortage of local labour available to do the work. He confirmed, however, that masseuses were not on the occupational priority list. — NZPA

THE PLIGHT OF THE FOREIGN WORKER

Over the past few months foreign workers, mainly from Thailand and Malaysia have appeared in several massage parlours and escort agencies around the country.

Several problems have arisen and discussions within the sex industry are needed. There seems to be a lot of jealousy and competitiveness being aroused which is naturally to be expected considering the state of the sex industry in New Zealand. We know that we are touching on a hot issue here and we would like to start an exchange of opinions, experiences and suggestions. We'd like to know how you see the foreign workforce has affected your business. Please let us know and maybe we can start an open discussion in this paper and maybe find some solutions, recommendations and decide how to deal with it.

I would firstly like to give some background information which was provided by a member of EMPOWER, the Prostitutes Collective in Bangkok. At the Melbourne Sex-Industry and Aids Conference we attended a workshop called 'issues for sex workers from other cultures' which made us realise how little we know about the working situation in Asia, especially in Thailand. In this workshop we had an interesting exchange about the working situation in at least five different countries and we all agreed that there is a strong connection between poverty, being female and coming from an ethnic background which can lead to exploitation in the workforce. But this is not only happening in the sex industry, it is a fact that in the Asian countries women are used as cheap labour for example in the clothing industry. These girls never get the opportunity for a reasonable education as their brothers often do. Many of these girls leave their villages and families to take up prostitution in the cities. In Thailand this is mainly in Patpong which is Bangkok's red light area. Here their clients are sex tourists coming from all over the world who are looking for cheap erotic entertainment and sex. Most of these girls tell their families that they are working in restaurants and bars in the city and the money these girls earn generally goes back to their poverty stricken families to help make life a little better. Many of these girls have very little knowledge of the English language and this can lead to frequently being ripped off. EMPOWER is trying to educate and help out these girls by helping them to develop other skills such as typing and clerical work so they may get off the game and into a better lifestyle. You must remember that the working conditions in a place like Patpong are a lot different to things here.





DARK MEETING....

(TAKING A WALK ON THE
WILD SIDE)

So we're finally going to meet
My mirror friend.
T'was only a matter of time
Plus more error than trial
To bring you out
From that part of one's soul
That more than often remains fantasy
A whole life span.
Took only travelled miles
Discovery of self
And the dead dream of a
School uniform.
Somehow I knew we'd
Shake hands
However coldly
For you will only be as big
A reflection
As I will allow
See you soon.

Sherae

PLEA TO THE WIND

Fair wind I know not where you'll lead me,
Astray no doubt
But still I beg you,
Soothe the nagging itch
That refuse my feet stay dormant.
Time to go again,
To rest my brain and conscience
Of complicated trivia
That a too familiar town - bored
Can lay on an unsuspecting girl
Who once called it home
But now calls it hell.
'Til I return on windy wings
.... With homesick feet....

Sheree

Aids victim's out for revenge

A VENGEFUL Aids victim is working as a masseur and intentionally passing on the virus.

A reliable Sunday News source claimed the crazed hooker believed she was infected with the deadly virus by one of the customers at an Auckland inner-city massage parlour and was now on a 'revenge trip' against all punters.

The Auckland massage parlour is well-known as a front for the sex-for-sale-business.

"This girl is known to have Aids, does have Aids, and has got a grudge against people and is passing it on," said our source.

"It's bloody disgusting for a known Aids sufferer to be working in a massage

parlour. It's criminal."

Health Department spokesman Patrick Wong said the implications of this person's actions were extremely serious.

He said it was against the law for anyone to knowingly pass on an infectious disease.

"She could be coming into contact and infecting many, many people — with serious consequences. What she is doing

is going to do a lot of harm.

"We are not talking about one or two people, we're talking about people who have had contact with her and then having contact with other people. And it's not just the partners of these people, but their partners as well.

"I think the number of

people who might get the infection could be very large," Dr Wong said.

He said it was very important for this masseur to seek counselling. She must be persuaded to seek help.

Aids Foundation director Warren Lindberg said it was the overriding duty of people aware of her condition to persuade the masseur to come to the foundation clinic for confidential counselling.

"The duty of everyone around, who knew about the situation and the risk she was placing herself and other people in, was to persuade her to seek confidential and anonymous counselling," he said.

Another foundation spokesperson said the woman MIGHT NOT be having any sex with clients.

"You don't know how much contact she's having with clients, she may not be having any sex at all with clients. Or, she

may be having absolutely safe sex anyway. And there's no problem with just massaging.

"There is no way a masseur can pass on the virus through the hands," she said.

"It would be disastrous for her to engage in unsafe sex."

She said the foundation did not normally approach people and try to get them to have counselling.

"The person has got to make the choice to come along. We can't ring someone up out of the blue and say 'I hear you've got the virus, come along to counselling'."

Auckland police senior legal adviser Barry Matthews said section 201 of the Crimes Act stated any person who wilfully and without lawful justification or excuse caused or produced another person to have a disease was liable for up to 14 years imprisonment.

"It would appear that if you could establish that a person had been wilfully inflicted with any disease or sickness then you would have a case — clearly Aids is a disease," Mr Matthews said.

The difficulty would be in proving that there was intent to inflict the disease and establishing the link between the two people.

NEW ZEALAND PROSTITUTES COLLECTIVE,
P O Box 11412,
Manners Street,
WELLINGTON.

The Editor,
SUNDAY NEWS
P. O. Box 1327
AUCKLAND.

Dear Sir,

I was disturbed to read your account of the Auckland masseuse currently working in a massage parlour while supposedly infected with the Aids virus. My interest in this subject relates to my position as the National co-ordinator of the New Zealand Prostitutes Collective and as a member of the National Council on Aids.

Your article heavily criticises the actions of the masseuse while ignoring those of the clients who may engage in sex with her. Let's not forget to focus on them as there is no reason for anyone to contract aids or any of the other sexually transmitted diseases providing the guidelines to safe-sex are followed.

While I do not condone the actions of the supposed masseuse, clients have their part to play as well. If they choose to engage in unsafe sex then they too must share responsibility for the consequences.

I believe the content of the article in the main casts a slur against the massage parlour — sex worker industry.

STD clinics will support my claim that the rate of infection for sex workers is below that of the general populace.

Give NZ sex workers credibility as they are the professionals in this business and safe sex is their livelihood.

I Remain Yours,

C A Healy

for NEW ZEALAND PROSTITUTES COLLECTIVE.

SUNDAY NEWS IS NO. 1 ★ ★ ★ SUNDAY NEWS IS NO. 1

Aids fear scares 'em

away

RE AIDS VICTIM OUT FOR REVENGE

By WIRACHIT WONGSAROT

THE fear of Aids is turning massage parlours into ghost houses.

Sunday News last week revealed a vengeful Aids victim was working as a masseuse and allegedly hoping to pass on the virus.

The crazed hooker believed she was infected with the deadly virus by one of the customers at an Auckland inner-city parlour, and was bent on revenge against all punters.

An irate masseuse told us this week that business had dropped by 80 per cent since the publicity about the Aids-infected worker.

"She'd better watch out. She's destroying the business by her sick action."

"All the girls I know are very aware of the dangers of Aids, and practise safe sex. We all insist on condoms."

"Customers should be suspicious straight away when a girl doesn't want to use a condom. She's the one they should stay away from."

In a statement to Sun-

day News, the New Zealand Prostitutes' Collective says customers must also share in the responsibility for the consequences of having unsafe sex: "Let's not forget to focus on them (customers), as there's no reason for anyone to contract Aids or any of the other sexually transmitted diseases, providing the guidelines to safe sex are followed. Clients have their part to play as well."

The rate of infection for sex workers was below that of the general public, said collective spokeswoman C. Healy.

"Give sex workers credibility, as they are the professionals in this business and safe sex is their

WE'RE
BIGGER,
BETTER,
BRIGHTER

Prostitutes, police join in Aids blitz

Court weekend sees a new Aids campaign. BRUCE STIRLING reports.

Capital Times Oct 4-11 '88

oldest profession in the has gained official status Zealand and, if the Nice has its way, is headed for acceptance.

recently formed Prosti- Collective has dubbed it- the Nice Squad to quish it from that other so concerned with prosti- welfare — the Vice

collective is part of the Department's big new awareness campaign. The ment provides the fund-

ing but leaves educating prosti- tutes about Aids to those who can do it most effectively — prostitutes themselves.

Collective spokeswoman, Catherine, only has two and a half years experience but is still working as a prostitute. Her group know where prostitutes work and how to talk to them.

"Can you imagine health workers coming into our scene and saying 'hello, we're from the Health Department? They just won't get listen to."

Other groups needing specific

campaigns that relate to their social networks and needs have also got special funding. These include Maori and Pacific Island groups as well as the already established IV League (targeting intravenous drug users) and NZ Aids Foundation. Regional health development units will also foster community involvement and adapt the national campaign to fit local needs.

The most visible part of the campaign kicks off on Labour weekend with a media blitz.

Radio, television, papers and cinemas will spread the word, and the word is 'sensible'.

Health educator and one of the campaign's co-ordinators, Patricia Poynter, says the brief for advertising agency MacKay King was to show 16-29 year olds "making sensible sexual decisions".

The 'grim reaper' terror that gripped Australia after a recent Aids campaign will not be repeated here: "A little fear is okay but a lot just doesn't work," says Mrs Poynter. "We aim to show people how to cope."

She says the ads will "without a doubt" be better than the infamous 'parachute' ads or last year's 'milkman-in-the-suburban-dawn fiasco'. A follow-up mail out will ensure every home in the land gets the message this time.

It has been a year since the last Aids ads screened, and Mrs Poynter admits "there is a feeling out there that Aids has gone away". The reason for the lack of awareness is quite simple — a lack of money.

The government has allotted \$1.5m for the entire Aids campaign. That compares with the \$2.5m spent on a recent education campaign obviously a bit higher on the political agenda — taxation...

About one third of the money will go in the brief burst of media exposure, but the rest will go a little further and fund the special groups and local in-

itiatives.

The prostitutes collective has a budget of a few tens of thousands of dollars. Catherine could not specify the exact amount, but she says the money would only last eight months even on a tight budget.

Their money will pay for a small city office from which they hope to launch a magazine keeping prostitutes aware of Aids and related issues. There will also be a lot of ground work to be done, getting out and talking to prostitutes.

Catherine says she should have more ideas after attending an October sex industry conference, in Melbourne.

Eventually she wants the collective to be self-supporting, but right now sees the funding of the collective as an important step in prostitutes coming out into the open: "We now have a relationship with two government departments, health and the police, which is a funny situation for us.

"It's improved our credibility, and is a real step forward."

Although she claims New Zealand is 10 years behind the rest of the world in its official attitude towards prostitutes, she admits that the government initiated the funding of the collective, which may be a world first.

"It should be interesting legally to see what happens down the track," she observes.

The police partnership may come as a surprise, but Catherine says they have a role in referring casual and street prostitutes which the collective might miss. She says her discussions with police went well.

"Some of them are concerned about our safety and we've formed a good rapport."

It is the street walkers that Catherine says are most at risk. Massage parlour workers share their knowledge and are already well aware of the risks, and know how to avoid aids and other sexually transmitted diseases.

"We don't want Aids associated with our scene, we just can't afford it. But street workers aren't as secure economically and some clients do offer more money for sex without a condom, and that puts everyone at risk."

She can see "morals" campaigners complaining about taxpayers funding prostitutes, but says it's too important an issue for such attitudes. "You have to be realistic in the face of Aids."

Funding of homosexual and intravenous drug users groups attracted similar criticism.

Catherine believes that Aids brought homosexuality further out into the open, and eventually to some sort of mainstream acceptance (or at least legality) and sees this as a model for prostitutes' emergence.

"I mean, we are everyday women, and all sorts of men have contact with us, as clients or just day to day. We could be their neighbours."

She says prostitutes could also play a role in educating men, so the safety zone could extend beyond Vivian Street out to the suburbs, into the homes of the men who keep prostitutes in business.

THEY JOINED HANDS... SEALED THE BARGAIN.



Sex industry tackling AIDS

A Prostitutes' Collective is being formed that will help prevent the spread of AIDS in the sex industry.

Its spokeswoman, Catherine, says workers in the sex industry are very aware of the risk of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

The Police Department's vice squad may help the collective get in touch with transvestites and "independent girls" who may have only casual involvement in prostitution.

Catherine says the collective welcomes the squad's "realistic" stance.

"Instead of thinking 'Oh God—the prostitutes are getting organised,' when they are supposed to see that prostitution is not happening, they are giving as much help as they can in keeping (AIDS) under control," she says.

"To be able to sit in a massage parlour with them and talk about safe sex is quite extraordinary."

Before the AIDS scare, management had opposed

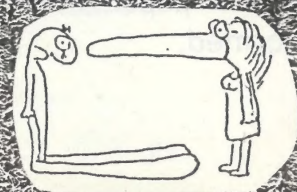
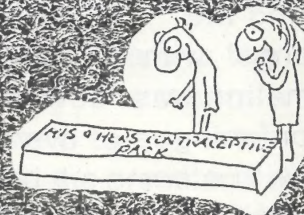
any attempts by prostitutes to form a collective.

At present the collective monitors prostitutes to make sure they keep up with their six-monthly AIDS tests and other health checks. Massage parlours are also monitored to make sure owners are not forcing the girls into unsafe activities.

Catherine says condom use is becoming standard practice in the sex industry, mainly because of initiatives taken by the prostitutes themselves.

She believes the AIDS prevention message needs to be targeted to the more casual heterosexual bar scene, which is often perceived to be of lower risk than prostitution.

"Really, we're all at risk, aren't we," she adds.



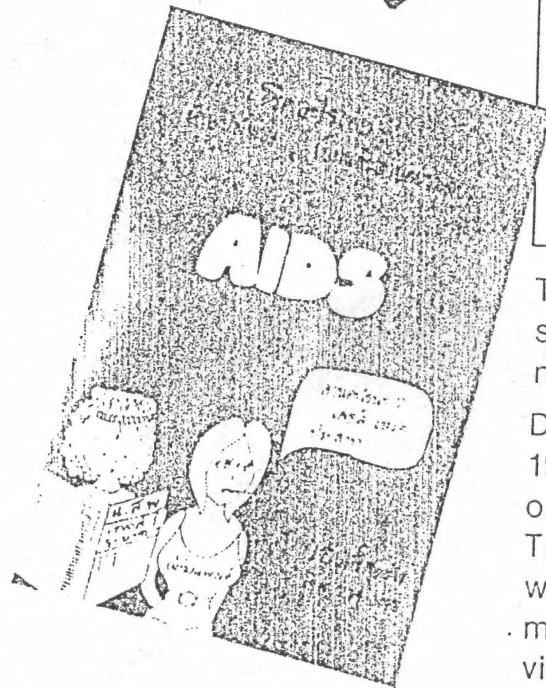
AIDS

As part of our AIDS Education program, EMPOWER created a mobile exhibition about AIDS. This has been displayed in two places so far, a local bookshop and Ramkamhaeng University, both in Bangkok. We also surveyed those who came to view the exhibition. Most of those who cooperated in the survey were men between the ages of 20-29 years.

Out of 58 people from the bookshop, all had a high level of education, were working in the private sector or were students. Over half

Thailand's first media exposure to AIDS was around 1984-5. It was considered primarily a 'farang' (foreign) disease and perhaps as this attitude could adversely affect the tourist industry the issue was played down by the media at government authorities' behest.

By 1987 AIDS began to receive regular coverage in the local English newspapers. Some figures from Thailand were released mostly mentioning the number of 'farangs' with the virus. Information was inconsistent, confusing and concerned with other countries. Most of the population who did not read the English papers remained uninformed.



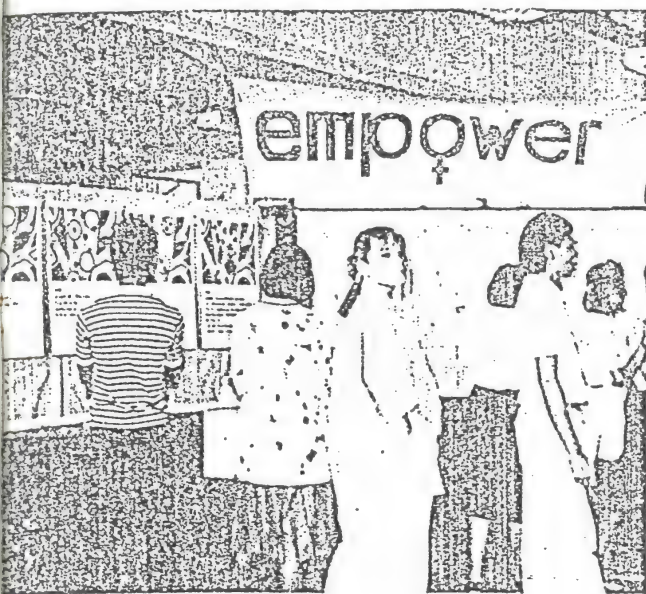
Around early 1987 EMPOWER cautiously distributed a leaflet introducing the topic of AIDS. The pamphlet was brief, light-hearted and in simple language. As the pamphlet was well received we then went ahead with producing a booklet explaining how AIDS is contracted, simple protection methods and dispelling many of the myths about the disease.

This booklet proved very successful and we have now printed three editions.

During the latter part of 1987 the issue exploded onto the front pages of all Thai newspapers when it was announced that a Thai man had contracted the virus from a blood transfusion. Then the press created a sensation by falsely accusing a popular Thai model of having the virus, on the hearsay of a well-known doctor.

The Government had by this time recognised the need to act and authorised 43 million baht towards education and testing. EMPOWER was approached by the Bangruk Hospital to help with the proposed

AIDS EXHIBITION



stated that they frequented coffee shops which front as strip shows for Thai Men) massage parlours and brothels. Seven of the

58 said that they always used condoms, 34 admitted to using condoms sometimes and 24 replied that they never used them (this last

group were mostly those who did not frequent night entertainment spots). Forty-eight of the total were confident that they were not in the high-risk group for AIDS.

The results from the University were very similar. One hundred students filled in the questionnaire, 54 replied that they often went to the entertainment places mentioned above. Fourteen out of the last number stated that they always used condoms, 20 said sometimes, 19 never and 1 did not reply. All but one did not consider themselves to be in the high-risk group, and again 1 person did not

answer.

The surveyees all said that what they knew about AIDS came from the press. Comments about the media coverage of AIDS included, the press was taking the issue of AIDS for its own profit, the information released was difficult to understand and used too much terminology, it was unreliable, the writers did not know enough about the issue and the information they used was too old. It was also mentioned that the Government should not use scare tactics to educate the people but should provide the public with more facts.

testing of 4000 women working in Patpong. We visited over 100 bars in the early evening for a period of 2 months, showing videos, talking about AIDS, and encouraging the women to take the test. Out of the 4,000 women tested, 7 were found to have the HIV virus.

We have not been able to meet with any of them but the Health Ministry informed us that their cases are being followed closely. As yet the Ministry doesn't have a counselling program for AIDS cases and seems content to hand his role to the patient's doctor. Two of the women found have already managed to avoid the Ministry and are

possibly working elsewhere.

The testing was conducted over 6 months ago and we find it extremely hard to estimate the number of sero-positive cases as yet undetected in Patpong at this stage.

EMPOWER has formulated its policy for education about AIDS:

— As the first priority we must encourage our present students to be aware of AIDS and to encourage them to take a leadership role in educating their friends.

— Secondly, we must concentrate on non-students (those who have not yet made contact with EMPOWER) as a building base for education, help

them build up their confidence in asking the customers to use condoms.

— Then there are the owners managers and mamasans whom we must try to get cooperation from, and encourage them to support the women in the use of condoms or at least not arouse a negative attitude.

— Next we have the customers who have to be reminded to be responsible and that AIDS in Asia is also a reality.

— Finally, there is the general public whom we must help to educate through the press and other media and work at adjusting peoples attitudes towards using condoms and safe sex.

JINTANA

(A door grill)

28 years old, from Bangkok...

Jintana has a 14 year-old son and an eight-year-old daughter.

Jin was kidnapped when she was 12 years old and was sold to a brothel in Nakornprathom (a province 70 km. south of Bangkok which is a well known for its gangsters and sex-trade).

Jin never knew how much she was sold for but she remembers well how many men were sent to her room. For the two years she was held captive, she received nothing in payment from the brothel.

One day Jintana actually managed to escape. (Brothel owners have considerable power and any tri-shaw driver who saw a run-away would immediately inform the brothel owner). Jin managed to stow away in the back of a bus, she was extremely afraid. When the bus reached the highway Jin sat up. She had to plead with the bus con-

ductor to let her stay on as she had no money.

Jin fell fast asleep and didn't wake up till the bus stopped somewhere in the Northeast, 5 hours from Bangkok...

... Jin found her way back home to the woman she called 'Mom' (an elderly woman who had cared for her since she was a baby). Her real mother was unmarried when she gave birth and Jin never knew her.

Mom and Jin lived in a slum in the outskirts of Bangkok. Mom earned a living by washing neighbours' clothes. Jin knew she must try to earn a living too, but how? She had only 4 years of school so her options were a factory worker or maid. Jin also had to take care of 2 children whose father left when they were young. Jin decided to work in a brothel near home where she split half of 50 baht a time with the owner.

Jin read about EMPOWER in the Daily News about a year

ago. She came to learn English because she wanted to be able to help her son and daughter with their homework.

Jin really wants her son to go as far as he can at school and she hopes then he can help his sister.

Jin took an adult education course in dressmaking last year but she left before it ended. She found it too difficult and she said she could never save enough to start a business or even buy a sewing machine. Jin also had to work when she was taking the course so she never got enough sleep, getting home in the early hours and starting the class at 8.30 am.

HOW HIV (AIDS) IS TRANSMITTED

HIV is carried in the blood, semen, cervical secretions and other body fluids of infected people. A person becomes infected when one of these fluids gains access to his/her body, but the virus has to get into the bloodstream e.g. via a cut or abrasion. It is true that HIV has been found in saliva and tears. However it has never been shown to be able to infect through these fluids. Epidemiological evidence is strongly against regular transmission by fluids other than blood and semen. The virus can survive in dried blood for up to two weeks and hence care should be taken to clean and sterilise all possibly infected objects which have come into contact with another person's blood.

The virus is fragile and easily destroyed by alcohol, disinfectant and heat. There is strong epidemiological evidence against infection by contagion or intimate non-sexual contact.



HIV CAN BE SPREAD BY:

1. Sexual intercourse (either vaginal or anal), without a condom, especially if ejaculation occurs.
2. By transfer of blood or blood products from one person to another's bloodstream either by medical transfusion or through sharing of injecting equipment in intravenous drug use.
3. From an infected woman to her foetus during pregnancy or at birth, and possibly subsequently through breastfeeding.
4. By failure of health care workers to observe appropriate hygiene precautions and infection control guidelines in tending people who are infected (whether or not the latter have HIV related illness.)

There are no other ways in which HIV is transmitted.

HIV CANNOT BE SPREAD BY:

- 1) Sexual contact which does not involve exchange of body fluids (e.g. mutual masturbation, intercourse with an intact condom, intercrural sex, frottage).
- 2) Social contact such as kissing, massage, cutting hair or shaking hands.
- 3) Contact with objects used by infected people (sharing cups etc).
- 4) Biting insects. (If biting insects did spread HIV, then children aged 4 to 12 would be getting it. They aren't. They only become vulnerable when they become sexually active.)
- 5) Donating blood. All equipment used by blood donors is sterilised. Members of the public are sometimes confused over this, probably because of the fear of needles and the message that shares needles are dangerous. Worried donors should be assured that it is impossible to contract HIV by donating blood.



T. Alexander.

PEOPLE ARE NOT PROTECTED FROM INFECTION BY:-

- 1) Reducing the number of sexual partners, if they still use high risk sexual practices (e.g. intercourse without a condom, with an infected partner.) If "safer sex" practices are used the number of partners is irrelevant.
- 2) Trusting their partners to say that they are not infected, or looking for "tell tale signs" like the lesions of Kaposi's sarcoma (which most infected people won't have.)
- 3) Avoiding foreigners or other people they think might be infected.
- 4) Hopes, prayers and wishful thinking.
- 5) Romance.
- 6) Intoxication.

Avoiding infection requires each individual to make affirmative, assertive decisions to take the necessary steps to protect his or her health. By leaving the responsibility to others individuals increase their own risks.

Letters ...

MOTIVATION

When I first saw the circular for the Collective my initial response was, what a great idea. My next thought was one of 'pity: it will never get off the ground'. Knowing how much people in this industry hate exposing themselves. Then I thought, it's attitudes like that which ensure that they don't. So do something.

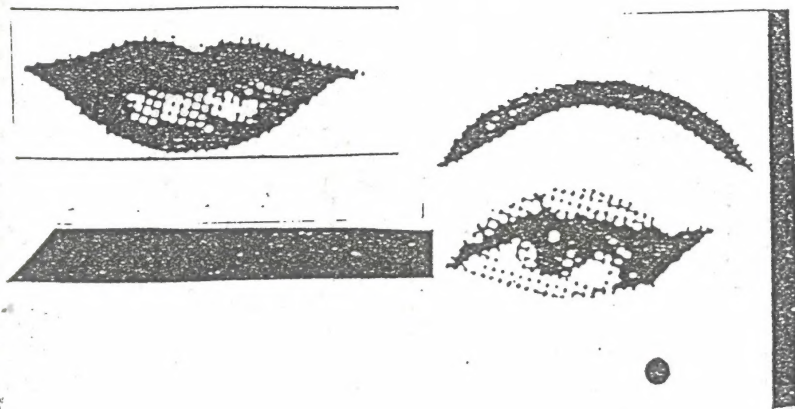
Of course the next thought was, well what do I write about? So many humorous incidents went through my mind. Stories that have never been shared, thoughts that have never been spoken.

One of the sad things about this industry is, that it is so isolated. How many of us can go home and share the day or night with partners, friends or family? In many cases they are more interested in how the job affects them or they don't want to know.

Well, this is our chance, not so much to change things, as to improve them. Here is a chance to express ourselves in a magazine for ourselves - by ourselves, so girls, get off the couch and also write something.

Letter from a person who only keeps in touch at Christmas and then ... prefers to use the phone!

B.



We'd love to hear from
you too, so if you've
got something to say
don't hesitate to write
to:
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